

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5032

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 6747

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP

SUBJECT: MARCOS ON GOP FOREIGN POLICY

1. GUIDED PRESS GAVE MODERATE ATTENTION TO PRESIDENT MARCOS' REMAKRS ON FOREIGN POLICY IN CABINET MEETING MAY 13. REPLYING TO REPORT FROM FORSEC ROMULO ON GOP PARTICPATION IN UNCTAD CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI, PRESIDENT SAID HE HOPED THAT GOP "WOULD ASSUME A MODEST AND NUMBLE POSTURE IN ALL INTERNATIONAL FORUMS IN WHICH IT PARTICIPATED BELIEVING AS IT DID IN THE BASIC POSITION THAT SMALL NATIONS SHOULD NO LONGER FIGHT THE WARS OF THE STRONG AND NOT BE COMPELLED TO ARGUE THE QUARRLES OF THE POWERFUL." MARCOS CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, AGAINST "CLAIMING LEADERSHIP OR OF BEING IDENTIFIED WITH A CLIQUE TO RUN THE THIRD WORLD."

2. AFTER REVIEW OF GOP FOREIGN POLICY, MARCOS TOLD CABINET THAT PHILIPPINES HAS "FLOATED ON THE EBB AND TIDE OF NOT ONLY INTERNATIONAL BUT EVEN REGIONAL POLICIES
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WITHOUT ANY DEFINITE COURSE." THUS, THE PHILIPPINE HAD BEEN EMBROILED IN BIG POWER CONFLICTS AND RIVALRY AND HAS BEEN A PARTISAN IN THESE QUARRELS "WITHOUT BEING INFORMED AS TO THE CAUSE, THE NATURE AND THE FINAL CON-

CLUSION OF SUCH QUARRELS." AS A RESULT THE PHILIPPINES HAD REAPED THE "ANIMOSITY AND ANGER OF PEOPLE IN THE REGION" BECAUSE IT HAD BEEN USED AS A TOOL FOR THE AMBITIONS OF THE GREAT POWERS. ACCORDING TO MARCOS, THE FILIPINO PEOPLE NOW APPRECIATE IT IS WRONG TO BE BOUND TO A PARTICULAR IDEOLOGY. TO ILLUSTRATE HIS POINT, THE PRESIDENT CITED REVIEW OF MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE U.S. AND THE GOP'S INCREASED PARTICIPATION IN THIRD WORLD EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER.

3. IN HIS STATEMENT ON UNCTAD, FORSEC ROMULO CLAIMED THAT "THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD -- THE THIRD WORLD -- HAVE GAINED A NEW CHAMPION" AND THAT "PRESIDENT MARCOS HAD BECOME A FORCEFUL SPOKESMAN TO RECKON WITHIN THE HIGH COUNCILS OF THE WORLD." UNDER MARCOS THE PHILIPPINES WAS NO LONGER A "SUBORDINATE SPOKESMAN FOR ONE OF THE CONTENDING WORLD POWERS, BUT A SPOKESMAN FOR ALL HUMANITY."

4. MAY 14 BULLENTIN TODAY GAVE MARCOS' STATEMENT FRONT PAGE TREATMENT UNDER HEADLINE, "NON-ALIGNMENT POLICY LAID DOWN BY MARCOS." DAILY EXPRESS ACCOUNT WAS HEADLINED, "MARCOS ORDERS REVIEW OF RP FOREIGN POLICY." TIMES JOURNAL, HOWEVER, BURIED STORY ON BACK PAGE. SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENT.

5. COMMENT: BY UNDERSCORING HIS PROMINENT ROLE AT UNCTAD AND DISTANCING THE PHILIPPINES FROM BIG POWER RIVALRIES, MARCOS APPARENTLY HOPES TO VALIDATE GOP'S THIRD WORLD CREDENTIALS AND PAVE WAY FOR OBSERVER STATUS AT AUGUST NAC. HIS LATEST CRITICISM OF PAST GOP FOREIGN POLICY FOR BEING TOO CLOSELY ALIGNED WITH THAT OF'S. IS FAMILIAR BUT WAS POLITIELY OBLIQUE. FORSEC ROMULO'S IMPLIED CRITICISM OF 7S. WAS MUCH MORE DIRECT. IT IS ALWAYS DANGEROUS TO READ TOO MUCH INTO OFFICIAL FILIPINO RHETORIC (PARTICULARLY MARCOS ADDRESS TO CABINET FILTERED THROUGH GUIDED PRESS), BUT HIS REMARKS CONFIDENTIAL

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SEEM PART OF ONGOING GOP EFFORT TO WIN ACCEPTANCE FOR THE PHILIPPINES AS GENUINE MEMBER OF THIRD WORLD. ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN SUCH EFFORT, HOWEVER, WOULD SEEM TO BE DEMONSTRATION THAT GOP GRULY INDEPENDENT OF 7S. HOW THIS MIGHT IMPACT ON BASE TALKS REMAINS TO BE SEEN, ALTHOUGH MARCOS HAS NOT BEEN ONE TO ALLOW RHETORIC TO GET THE BETTER OF CONCRETE INTERESTS. SULLIVAN

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